

The Watauga Democrat.

Advertising Rates on Request.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BOONE, AND WATAUGA COUNTY.

\$1.00 Per Year

VOL. XXXIII.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 1922

NO 12

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Winston-Salem.—Dr. C. N. Slav, a native of Burke county, but who has been practicing his profession in Georgia for a few years, has been elected county physician.

Reidsville.—The body of Lester Stone, of Schoolfield, Va., who was shot and killed by police officers four miles from this city, has been sent to his parents for burial.

Hickory.—An action for \$5,000 damages has been instituted in Catawba superior court by Alex Cook for injuries inflicted Sunday afternoon, November 14, 1920, when he was shot with a pistol by Deputy Sheriff Raymond Huss.

Asheville.—Congressman Zebulon Weaver will be requested to introduce a bill in congress at the earliest possible date for an appropriation of at least \$200,000 for the erection of a postoffice and federal building in Asheville.

Goldsboro.—While driving through the country near Goldsboro an automobile occupied by Dr. J. W. Smithwick, Leon Fields and John Rouse, was fired upon by highwaymen, in an unsuccessful attempt to hold up the occupants of the car. The weapons used were shotguns, some 200 shots striking the automobile.

Asheville.—Scott Dillingham remains in the county jail here, unable to adjust an action brought by a Greenville firm, charging larceny of an automobile, although he has made bonds aggregating \$8,600 through relatives and friends, on all criminal actions pending in this state.

Durham.—One of the regional conferences on the country church which have been arranged by the Home mission board of the Methodist church, South, will be held at Trinity college in June in connection with the summer school for preachers, which begins June 7 and ends June 15.

New Bern.—When Sam Elliott, a prosperous James City negro, returned to his home from church, he found a note left by a member of the burglar gang bearing this message: "Your safe is too heavy for two men to carry. We will come back for it later." His home had been visited while he was at the church. Neighbors had seen two white men visit the place during that time, but thought nothing of it.

Asheville.—Plans for the transformation of the site of the United States women's training camp, attended by over 500 women from all sections of the country last summer and commanded by Susanna Corcoran, into a recreational park and automobile camping ground by the city, which owns the site, are being prepared by the chamber of commerce here, and approval of the plan for the abandonment of the women's camp will officially come before the board.

Charlotte.—Two white convicts, Fred Torrence, up for car breaking, and Elbert Lewis, alias Elliott Arnold, serving time for breaking into a Dilworth drug store and the Shu Fixery, who escaped from McLaughlin camp, in the northern part of the county, are reported to be still at large.

Wilson.—Henry E. Thompson, of Stanfordsburg, near here, lay claim to having one of the choicest bottles of moonshine liquor in the world. Mr. Thompson is the proud possessor of one quart of apple brandy distilled in Edgecomb county, N. C., in the summer of 1770. The whiskey has been in the Thompson and Snuggs families for more than 150 years, Mr. Thompson having had the brandy more than 50 years.

Kinston.—Though two policemen saw Claude Rivenbark fall dead on Queen street here, a bullet hole in his head, and another heard the report and saw the flash, the police department was completely foiled after an all day search for a clue to the murderer or a motive for the crime.

Hickory.—Nearly 90,000 packages are handled by the local express office in a year and over one million dollars in business is done by the Southern and Carolina and North Western railroads, while postal receipts last year amounted to \$36,831.86, an increase of \$4,790.28 over the previous year or 15 per cent. Hickory's population, without enlarging the boundaries, increased 36 per cent in the ten-year period covered by the last census, and last year inside the city limits a total of 144 white children were born.

SHIP SCRAPPING IS BIG PROBLEM

AWAITING WORD FROM TOKIO CONCERNING ARTICLE ON FORTIFICATIONS.

SOME PROGRESS BEING MADE.

The American Delegates Regard Other Issues Than the Ship Problem as of Great Importance.

Washington.—The "big five" powers made further progress in their final revision of the naval treaty but encountered a difference of opinion when they came to lay down rules for the scrapping of the proscribed battleships.

For the American delegation, it was proposed that the surplus vessels be rendered entirely useless, France readily supported that view, with Italy indicating a similar attitude. Great Britain and Japan withheld assent, however, the suggestion being made that the dismantled ships might be used as harbor guards or training vessels.

When the five delegation heads adjourned after several hours of debate the question remained unsettled and will be taken up again. During their two sessions, however, they had completed approval of the first of the treaty annexes, embodying a replacement chart, and they expressed hope that all of the five annexes might be disposed of.

Except for the article dealing with Pacific fortifications, all of the text of the treaty proper already had been virtually approved, and should Tokyo's reply on the fortifications provision be received in time a plenary session for public discussion of the completed treaty may be held. The Japanese indicated that they expected to receive the awaited message from their capital soon.

Indications that an agreement will not be difficult were supported by a declaration of a Japanese spokesman that he saw no objection to including Bonin Island and the Oshima group in the "status quo" agreement on fortifications. It is said to have been over these islands that the issue now referred to Tokio arose.

Meantime, also, some members of the various delegations began to lay their plans for resumption of the general far eastern negotiations, which will follow completion of the naval treaty. For the Japanese it was predicted that the Chinese plea for consideration of the "twenty-one demands" would be quickly ruled out by the far eastern committee, a view that seemed to be supported by American official opinion despite a minority effort in the American advisory committee to instruct the delegation to support China's request.

There was increasing evidence, however, that the American delegates regard settlement of other pending Chinese questions as of great importance, and that actual signing of the naval treaty is also ready for approval. It has been the American position that the two subjects are not interdependent, but it is known that certain advisers have strongly urged conclusion of the two pacts simultaneously.

Request Another \$50,000,000. Washington.—An appropriation of \$50,000,000 for settlement of claims was requested of congress by the shipping board. This amount is needed in addition to \$50,000,000 already sought by the board for expenses during the coming fiscal year, a communication forwarded to Speaker Gillett by President Harding from the budget bureau stated.

Tariff Protection Favored. Washington.—President Harding is said to have told a delegation representing the Southern Tariff association, calling at the White House, that he favored a tariff that gave the same protection to the South that is given to the North and the same protection to the man who tills the field as is given to the man who works in a factory.

Transport Out of Danger. New York.—Threatened by heavy northwest gales which weather bureau officials predicted would sweep the North Atlantic coast, the army transport Crook, making eleven knots an hour under temporary repairs, was striving to reach the lee of the shore in a race against the impending danger. The vessel, bringing back 842 A. E. F. men from Germany sprung a leak off the New Foundland banks in heavy weather, but a late radio aid danger had passed and all was well.

TO SETTLE MUSCLE SHOALS PROJECT

WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

WEEKS TO CONFER WITH FORD

To See Wilmington Man as Soon as Approaching Conference With Ford is Concluded.

Washington.—War department officials look forward to an early conclusion of the negotiations they have been conducting with private interests for the lease, purchase and operation of the government's nitrate and water-power projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala., or a decision for their retention by the government in the event none of the proposals received is found acceptable to the department or to congress.

The visit of Henry Ford scheduled for the latter part of this week, it was said, probably would lead Secretary Weeks to take definite action at an early date on the proposal submitted by the Detroit manufacturer. Whether the secretary would decide to recommend its acceptance to congress to satisfy himself with submitting a report to that body merely reciting the facts of the case and leaving congress to decide for itself on the question of acceptance or rejection was said to depend largely upon the answers. Mr. Ford would give to the questions Mr. Weeks will ask him.

The war department has prepared a questionnaire, which in the opinion of some officials will lead to quick action by the secretary when Mr. Ford arrives. The questions are described as being pointed, with the intention of bringing the negotiations to an end and without delay and designed to bring the parties concerned to thorough understanding of their positions.

Former Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina was informed that Mr. Weeks would confer with Frederick Engstrom, president of the Newport Shipbuilding company, of Wilmington, N. C., as soon as the approaching conferences with Mr. Ford was concluded. Mr. Butler also presented a letter to the secretary by which Mr. Engstrom formally agreed to lease and operate the Muscle Shoals plants for the manufacture of commercial nitrates under the proposal submitted by his company. The construction part of the proposal made by Mr. Engstrom, he said, was incidental to the manufacture of commercial nitrates.

F. C. Hitchcock, vice-president of the Construction Company of North America, also announced that his company would formally offer a plan to the secretary which would contain a provision for the manufacture of fertilizers in the event the concern was permitted to bring the plants to a final stage of completion. Revision of the original plan proposed by the construction company, it was said, was being made by its engineers in California and probably would be completed within a week.

Airplane Will Aid in Search. St. Paul, Minn.—Use of a National Guard airplane to aid in the search for James Maher, county commissioner of Cook county, missing for 14 days and believed to be lost on Lake Superior, has been authorized by Governor J. A. O. Preus. Tugboats to scout around the numerous small islands in Thunder bay, where it is thought Maher may be, also were authorized by the governor.

Maher left Grand Portage on December 27 for Port Arthur, Ontario. He was last heard of at Cloud Bay.

Blackstone Institute Burned. Richmond, Va.—Blackstone Female Institute, at Blackstone, Va., was totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$175,000, according to information reaching Richmond.

Members of the faculty, board of trustees and student body lost virtually all their clothing and other personal property. There was no loss of life.

Five Drink Poisonous Liquor. Hoboken, N. J.—Five men died from drinking poisonous liquor. The authorities believe the liquor had been obtained from sailors on an incoming steamship.

The police believe that James Sheehy, a longshoreman, who died in Jersey City Saturday from drinking poisonous liquor, obtained it from the same sailors who sold it to the other victims.

The police started to search piers and steamships here in an effort to prevent further sales.

TEACH LOVE FOR FLAG IN SCHOOL

WILL TELL CHILDREN VARIOUS WAYS OF SHOWING RESPECT TO THE FLAG.

TO CO-OPERATE WITH LEGION

Executive Committee of American Legion Will Hold Meeting in Greenville on January 18.

Raleigh. American legion officials of the state are elated over information imparted to them by Dr. E. C. Brooks that the department of education will add a chapter on the American flag to the text book on civil government taught in the North Carolina public schools.

State Commander Tom Byrd, of Asheville, was in Raleigh, and he and Adjutant Cale K. Burgess discussed with Dr. Brooks plans for the addition of this chapter. The state superintendent of education informed the officials that this chapter would be inserted. It will tell the children of the state the various ways of showing respect to the flag and of the significance of the banner.

Commander Byrd came to Raleigh for a visit to state headquarters and to confer with American legion officials. Plans for the membership drive received attention at a meeting of the legionaires and further plans for the campaign will be taken up in detail at a meeting of the executive committee in Greenville on January 18.

The commander and Adjutant Burgess also visited Governor Morrison and talked over legion plans with him. The governor is a strong friend of the legion and is interested in its undertakings in behalf of the state.

The legion executive committee, which will meet in Greenville, is as follows:

Commander Byrd, J. R. Hollis, Wilmington; Adjutant Burgess, Chaplain T. G. Vickers, Ayden; Historian Robert S. McNeill, Fayetteville; Dr. G. G. Dixon, Ayden; R. T. Allen, Kinston; Tom C. Daniels, New Bern; Daniel W. Terry, Raleigh; Robert E. Denny, Greensboro; Hubert T. Prosser, Hamlet; Thomas B. Marsh, Jr., Salisbury; S. S. Chandley, Marshall; J. Will Pless, Jr., Union; Dr. Paul Ringer, Asheville, chairman of the hospitalization committee; R. G. Cherry, Gastonia, chairman of the Americanization committee, and Don S. Elias, of Asheville, chairman of the legislative committee.

Highway Officials Make Tour.

Frank Page, chairman of the North Carolina State Highway Commission, State Highway Engineer Upham, Construction Engineer Gardner and Maintenance Engineers Miller, McDaniels and Clingman were visitors in Washington a few days last week. They were on their way to Hyde county where they reviewed a road project.

They were joined in Washington by Frank C. Kugler, chairman of the Beaufort county road commission, who accompanied them to Hyde. While on this trip the engineers inspected the hard surface roads built out of Washington and Belhaven, and which form a part of the State highway system. The entire road from Washington to Leechville was taken over by the State several months ago.

The party returned to Washington and inspected the hard surface road now being built from Washington towards Williamston. Four and a half miles of this road has been completed and part of same is now open to traffic. The visitors stated that Beaufort county has made more progress in the construction of hard surface roads than any county east of Greensboro except Lenoir, which had two and a half times more money to spend, and whose area is about the size of Chocowinity township.

Chairman for Cabarrus County.

Rev. J. F. Armstrong, of Concord, has been appointed chairman for Cabarrus county for the near east relief for 1922, according to an announcement by Col. George H. Bellamy, state chairman.

Conference at Raleigh.

District Attorney Tucker and State Prohibition Director Kohloss conferred here on the status of "The Messenger of Peace," British liquor-laden schooner, and its cargo of wet goods, now in the customs house in Wilmington. The officials are gathering evidence against the ship's captain and owner and a strong case is being worked up against them, they said. Both refuse to consider the claim of the captain that the boat was forced into port in distress.

PREMIER BRIAND RESIGNS OFFICE

HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN CAME AS SURPRISE TO CABINET WHICH SUPPORTED HIM.

CAUSED EXCITED DISCUSSION

In the Course of His Speech Briand Said United States Would Participate in Genoa Conference.

Paris.—President Millerand accepted the resignation of Premier Briand and his entire cabinet and indicated he would not ask anyone to form a new ministry for a day or two. Minister of War Barthou and former President Poincare were mentioned prominently in parliamentary lobbies as likely candidates for the task of forming a new government.

Premier Briand submitted his resignation to President Millerand at the Elysee Palace after making a lengthy statement before the chamber of deputies justifying his attitude at the Cannes conference.

M. Briand's intention to resign was announced to the chamber at the close of his hour's speech. The announcement came as an entire surprise, as he had apparently won the sympathy of the chamber. His colleagues of the cabinet were filled with amazement at his sudden determination. M. Briand, after making his announcement, left the chamber alone. The members of the cabinet followed as soon as they had recovered from their surprise.

Groups of deputies and government officials speedily gathered in excited discussion of the seriousness of the situation, seeking a way out of the difficulties.

Premier Briand put the Anglo-French pact, the question of postponement of Germany's reparations payments and French participation in the Genoa conference squarely up to the chamber of deputies, telling the deputies in the bluntest terms to take them or leave them.

The premier first presented the question of the British pact. "You have been complaining for three years," he said, "of not being called upon to share in shaping French politics. I am bringing you what you have been demanding for three years and it is up to you to say whether you want it or not."

Premier Briand, in the course of his speech, said the United States had agreed to participate in the Genoa conference.

"As far as I am concerned," he continued, "I am merely making these explanations to you and do not ask your approval or refusal. Here is France's security. Take it or leave it."

The premier next turned to the subject of the Genoa conference. "It is inadmissible," he said, "that France should be absent from this conference, which is purely financial and economic, especially when such a powerful financial and economic state as the United States, without whose co-operation work is impossible, has agreed to participate."

Means End to Genoa Conference.

Washington.—In the absence of significant developments in the local conference, attention was concentrated upon the surprising events in Paris. The resignation of M. Briand did not come as a surprise, indeed, it was expected when the French premier left this city a month ago. But what was recognized on all sides was the retirement of M. Briand would mean an end to the Genoa conference and perhaps all hope of American participation in European reconstruction for a considerable length of time.

Conference at Cannes Adjourns.

Cannes.—The allied supreme council adjourned indefinitely after receipt of news of the resignation of the Briand cabinet.

Adjournment was taken after Walter Rathenau, the German financial expert, had finished his addressing the council, and no action or comment was made upon his remarks concerning Germany's default at her January reparations payment.

Great Undertaking by Ford.

Detroit, Mich.—The Muscle Shoals plan of Henry Ford contemplates one of the greatest undertakings in the history of industrial America and if the Detroit manufacturer obtains possession of the project in Alabama he will take immediate steps to make that part of the South one of the industrial centers of the country; the Associated Press learned. His plan, it became known, includes development of the property as a model to be extended eventually to many other parts of the country.

DELEGATES TURN TO SHANTUNG ISSUE

CONFERENCE HOPES TO DISPOSE OF THIS PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

KEY TO FAR EAST QUESTIONS

Naval Treaty Completed and Method of Scrapping Ships is Settled Apparently Satisfactorily.

Washington.—With the naval treaty virtually completed, the arms delegates are preparing to turn the conference spotlight on Shantung, apparently in the hope that a settlement of that controversy may make it easier to go ahead with other troublesome problems of the far east.

It now is the expectation in conference circles that during the next few days, and probably until a decision is reached, the Shantung negotiations will have right of way while discussions of other far eastern subjects remain at a standstill. So far the Shantung exchanges have taken place between the Japanese and Chinese alone, with American and British observers present, but the next phase of the conference program is expected at least to concentrate upon the problem the friendly interest of all the governments represented here.

At their meeting the Japanese and Chinese groups reached an agreement for opening up the entire Kiao-Chow leased territory to foreign trade and they are to take up others of the collateral questions involved in restoration of the leasehold to China.

In the naval negotiations only a few details, considered more or less perfunctory, remain to be arranged. An agreement has been reached regarding methods of scrapping, under which discarded battleships may be converted in some cases into airplane carriers and training ships, and a final settlement relating to Pacific fortifications awaits a reply expected from Tokio.

If present plans develop, the final draft of the naval treaty will be laid before the full naval committee this week and will be publicly announced at a plenary session of the conference a few days later.

Federal Authorities Hold Liquor Ship.

Washington.—Disposition of the British schooner, Message of Peace, held at Wilmington, N. C., is apparently in the hands of federal officials in North Carolina, it was indicated at the justice department.

The Message of Peace was seized with a cargo of liquor off the North Carolina coast by the coast guard service.

Federal Prohibition Director Kohloss of North Carolina has conferred here with prohibition headquarters and the justice department on the case, but officials declined to comment on future proceedings.

At the justice department it was said that no statement regarding Mr. Kohloss' conference nor the disposition of the British vessel would be made, but that developments in the case would be expected from the federal authorities in North Carolina.

Prohibition Commissioner Haynes said that he merely discussed the case of the Message of Peace with Mr. Kohloss before the latter's conference with the justice department officials and that Mr. Kohloss had returned to North Carolina without acquainting him of the results of his talk at the justice department.

Newspaper Man in Paris Prison.

Paris.—Thomas Stewart Ryan, of the Paris staff of the Chicago Tribune, firmly protesting his innocence, was being held in Santa prison in connection with the serious illness of his wife, due, it is alleged, to the taking of poison tablets while in Mr. Ryan's room at a hotel here. Mrs. Ryan is a California woman. She is a violinist and is known professionally as Miss Audrey Creighton. She is in the American hospital, where the physicians held out little hope for her recovery.

Four Killed by Cave-In.

Scranton, Pa.—Four men are known to have been killed, several others are believed to be dead and an unknown number of mine workers are entombed as the result of a cave-in in the National mine of the Glen Alden Coal company in Minooka, just across the southern boundary line of the city. Miners who escaped said the number of men believed to be behind the barrier is about twenty. There was no confirmation of a report that nearly 50 men were caught. The company has given out no information.